

Student Farm Tour 2009

**Hart-Ransom Elementary School
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**3rd Grade
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Student Farm Tour

I am interested in organizing a farm tour to the Bakker's U-Pick farm this fall. I think this would be a great opportunity for children to learn how things grow and to harvest their own vegetables. It is anticipated that through this experience they will learn how great fresh vegetables taste and as a result they will encourage their parents to purchase locally grown fresh produce. Additionally, it is anticipated that they will be interested in growing their own food, and when they see produce in the grocery store they will understand more about agriculture and where their food comes from. I feel there is no substitute for learning by doing, and by having hands on experience on the farm; it will help them to remember how food is grown.

1. Curriculum

- First I will prepare a survey questioning the students on what specialty crops grow in Alaska.
- I will prepare a picture and word match up of Alaska Grown specialty crops for students to complete prior to attending the farm tour/hands on picking experience. See included "survey" sample.
- Prior to the students picking their own produce, we will choose five vegetables and we will discuss how they grow in Alaska, how they are harvested and different ways they can be prepared for a meal.
- After the farm tour, students will complete a second survey asking the students what specialty crops grow in Alaska, and it will also ask how at least five crops grow and are harvested.
- I will be teaming up with Mrs. Achenbach. My goal is to fill up a bus with at approximately 45 students. She will be applying for a grant separately.

Increase awareness of Alaska Grown:

I will prepare the students prior to the farm tour, by having the word match up of Alaska Grown products. When we go to Bakker's, they will be given a list of specialty crops that are grown on their farm, helping the students increase their awareness of Alaska Grown specialty crops. Also, when they take their own baggies of produce home, they will be reminded of specialty crops that grow in Alaska, and also have the chance to share that with their parents, which will hopefully increase the parent's awareness as well.

2. # of Students Reached

I have a class of 22 this coming year, and another third grade teacher (Mrs. Achenbach) in my school has a class of 21. She has great interest in including agriculture in her curriculum, and we have both participated in AITC in past years, and we are interested in taking what we have learned there sharing it with the students. These students will be directly reached, as we have day to day contact with them.

3. AITC

In 2008, I took AITC in Wasilla from Vicki Naegele. It was informative and I learned so much that I could pass on to my students. I took from Vicki tools to reach the students to increase their awareness of how agriculture is in every part of their life, from clothing to food. She has a CD of games and ways to teach the students agriculture, which I have utilized in the past. Vicki reviewed the matching exercise that I prepared, and provided input on it. She suggested the five crops we will do a close review on, which she felt would be most valuable. Because we will not be growing a specialty crop, I did not consult an expert in the project area.

4. Surveys

I will conduct two surveys, one at the beginning and one at the end, to determine if the curriculum described increased students' awareness of Alaska Grown, and educated them on the subject of agriculture.

5. Scholarship Funds

The scholarship funds will be used to help pay for the bus trip out there. However, I teach in a lower income area, and what is of great interest to me, is enabling the students to bring produce home. They do not have the funds to do this, so we will pay the farm \$10/ student so that they can buy produce and bring it home to share with their families.

6. Understand Contract Requirements

I understand the contract requirements and if awarded this scholarship I will adhere to them.

Thank you for considering my proposal. I am excited about the prospect of educating my student on agriculture, and increasing their awareness of food and fiber.

Item	Cost	Explanation
Bus	\$ 280.00	Help cover trip expenses
Baggies of Produce	\$ 220.00	\$10 * 22 Students
Total	\$ 500.00	